

All the
news
that's flit
to print

Badger ButterFlyer



The e-newsletter of the Southern Wisconsin Butterflyfly Association

A chapter of NABA (North American Butterfly Association)

JUNE, 2025

WEB SITE: <http://www.naba.org/chapters/SWBA>

1 NEXT FIELD TRIP Cherokee Marsh, Madison, Dane County Saturday, June 14th, 10am-Noon Leader: Tod Highsmith

Each year, we visit the north side of Madison to view butterflies in these wetlands that flow into Lake Mendota. The ever-knowlegeable Tod Highsmith will

introduce newbies to species including Hackberry Emperor, American Lady, Monarch, and many others.



DIRECTIONS: On the north side of Madison take Northport Drive (Highway 113) then turn north on Sherman Ave. Meet in the Cherokee Marsh parking lot at the north end of Sherman Ave. (6098 N Sherman Ave, Madison, WI.)

IN THIS ISSUE

1. Next Field Trip Cherokee Marsh
2. Pleasant Valley Field Trip
3. Doom in the Mountains
4. Salvias: Another Great Garden Plant
5. Scheduled Field Trips for 2025—Note: Catholic Ecology Center re-scheduled
6. List of 2025 Official Counts in Wisconsin

2 PLEASANT VALLEY FIELD TRIP

Saturday, June 21st, 10am-noon
Leaders: Douglas Buege and Kathie Brock

Once again, we delve into the wonderful restored prairie the Brocks began work on 30 years ago. We'll meet at the chain gate to the uphill area, a few hundred yards past the shack on the south side of Pleasant Valley Road and it'll all be downhill from there. That is, we'll be walking downhill from the road, through the prairie that gets progressively wetter as we move west. The amazing Baltimore Checkerspot will likely perch on Angelica, posing for your camera. Fritillaries, swallowtails, ladies and monarchs should all be on the wing. The round-trip hike is roughly a mile and you are free to come and go as you please.



*Artist's rendering of
Baltimore Checkerspot*

Long pants, a hat, water, and hiking shoes are recommended. Bring binoculars—the closer they focus, the better!

DIRECTIONS: (4554 Pleasant Valley Road, Black Earth) Heading south into downtown Black Earth follow County Hwy F as it turns right (west). After a mile or so, F turns left (south). Continue on F for another 3 3/4 miles turning left onto Pleasant Valley Road. Drive 3/4 mile (past the buildings on the right) to the state natural area sign. Park off the road.

3 DOOM IN THE MOUNTAINS?

At the end of March, the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution published a disheartening article, “Global Hotspots of Butterfly Diversity are Threatened in a Warming World.” The authors explain that mountainous terrain accounts for more “butterfly hotspots” than lowlands, and species move up in elevation as temperatures rise. They write: “We project that up to 64% of the temperature niche space of butterflies in tropical realms will erode by 2070, with the geographically restricted temperature conditions of mountains potentially turning these from refugia to traps for butterfly diversity.” Of course, this has already been seen with the over-wintering grounds of monarchs in Mexico. They also remark that we’ve gathered too little information about insects and their ecology, leaving us less prepared to advocate for and protect species. One almost gets the impression that humanity is racing down an ice-covered twisty road wondering why the brakes don’t work.

4 SALVIAS: ANOTHER GREAT BUTTERFLY GARDEN PLANT

As soon as the weather turns warm, in May and June, you’ve got a good time to plant any of the many *Salvia* species. Members of the Mint Family, more commonly called “sage,” *Salvias* have a wide variety of forms—from small annuals to hardy shrubs. *Salvia nemerosa*, woodland sage, grows to two feet tall with purple flowers that will bloom all season long, especially if spent blossoms are removed. Hardy to Zone 4, these gems will help you draw wandering butterflies to your yard and keep them there!



5 SCHEDULED FIELD TRIPS FOR 2025 so far

	County	Date and Time	Leader(s)
Spring Green Preserve	Sauk	April 26, 10am-noon	Mike Reese and Emma Raasch
Catholic Ecology Center-- postponed—see below	Dodge	May 31, 10 am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter
Cherokee Marsh	Dane	June 14, 10am-noon	Tod Highsmith
Pleasant Valley	Dane	June 21, 10am-noon	Douglas Buege and Kathie Brock
Catholic Ecology Center-- rescheduled	Dodge	June 28, 10am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter
Kalscheur Savannah	Iowa	July 5, 10am-noon	Fred Dike
Sandhill Wildlife Area	Wood	July 19, 10am-3pm	Ron Arnold
Smith-Reiner Drumlin Prairie	Dane	August 30, 10am-noon	Pam Skaar
Hogback Prairie	Crawford	September 13, 10am-noon	Ethan Brown and Donna Williams-Richter

6 LIST OF 2025 OFFICIAL COUNTS IN WISCONSIN

These are the counts in Wisconsin. Note: the Forest County and Northern Oconto County counts are no longer NABA events. All others listed are NABA counts.

Name	County	Years	Contact
Scott and Experimental Road	Forest	2	Douglas Buege
Mud Lake	Columbia	36	Karl Legler
Madison	Dane	34	Fred Dike
Northern Oconto County	Oconto	11	Douglas Buege
Trempealeau	Trempealeau	33	Mike Reese
Northern Kettle Moraine	Fond du Lac	28	Mike Reese
Avoca	Iowa/Grant		Mike Reese

The Badger ButterFlyer flits to you every month in summer.

The next issue will be in JULY, 2025.

Officers of SWBA:

President: Dr. Douglas Buege

djbuege@gmail.com

Vice-President: Karl Legler

karlndot@charter.net

Secretary: Dorothy Legler

Treasurer: Fred Dike

Other SWBA contributors:

e-Newsletter Editor and

Webmaster: Douglas Buege

Butterfly Reporting: Mike Reese at

www.wisconsinbutterflies.org

Field Trips: Pam Skaar

Speaker's Bureau: Vacant

NABA Liaison: Joan Braune

SWBA

The Southern Wisconsin Butterfly Association (SWBA) is a non-profit Wisconsin chapter of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) which is the largest organization of people interested in butterflies. SWBA promotes public awareness, conservation and the enjoyment of butterflies through observation with close-focusing binoculars, chapter field trips, educational meetings, photography, butterfly gardening, monitoring and travel. SWBA's events are open to the public.

To become a member of SWBA simply join NABA. Membership benefits include 2 color quarterly magazines "American Butterflies" and "Butterfly Gardening". Please use the membership form on the NABA Web site at <http://www.naba.org/>

Our e-Newsletter, the Badger ButterFlyer, will be published monthly in summer. Send any news notes to the editor, Dr Douglas Buege, at djbuege@gmail.com

To stop receiving this e-Newsletter simply send an email to the above editor's address saying "Unsubscribe".